

REMARKS

Claims 17-23, 25-27, and 86-97 are all claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 20 and 25 to further clarify the invention. No new matter is being added. In particular, claims 20 and 25 are amended to recite features similar to the features of the allowed independent claim 17. Therefore, these amendments require no additional search by the Examiner.

Claims 17-19, 21-23, 26, 27, and 86-97 are allowed.

The only rejected claims are claims 20 and 25. Independent claims 20 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by a newly found reference, US Patent No. 6,115, 362 to Bosa et al. (hereinafter "Bosa"). Applicant herein amends claims 20 and 25 to recite: "wherein one of the destinations is a network-incompatible device not directly connectable to the communications network." Bosa fails to teach or suggest a destination being a network-incompatible device as set forth in claims 20 and 25.

Bosa teaches a system capable of determining whether a frame relay connection exists between interfaces of different devices (*Abstract*). In particular, Bosa teaches a network management system that can determine and display a graphical representation of particular connections which exist in a frame relay network. In Bosa, the device may be a router, a switch, or a bridge which may have several interfaces. Bosa's system determines which interface of the device is connected to the other device (col. 2, lines 1 to 49). In Bosa, however, the devices are directly connected to the network. In short, Bosa fails to teach or suggest one of the destinations being a network-incompatible device that cannot directly connect to the network.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/556,517

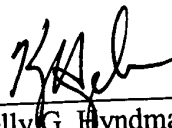
Attorney Docket No.: Q58755

Therefore, "wherein one of the destination is a network-incompatible device not directly connectable to the communications network," as set forth in the independent claims 20 and 25 is not disclosed by Bosa, which lacks having a destination be a network-incompatible device that cannot directly connect to the communications network. For at least this exemplary reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20 and 25 are patentably distinguishable from Bosa. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of the independent claims 20 and 25.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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